

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES - October 11, 2017 6:30PM

Pledge to the Flag

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Alberti, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Shannon Spinner and Trustee Robert Scott

ABSENT: Trustee Marla Butler

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney
 - Issue with Best Hatfield Construction company was discussed.
 - Cold war veterans exemption – the Legislature passed it 10 years ago and it has expired, therefore the legislature is leaving it to the municipalities to enact it if they so wish.
 - Vehicle & traffic law/ snow removal is still up at the State DOT pending their approval.
 - Status of Abandoned homes was discussed Florak (Marlboro St), St. Pierre. (Warren St.) and Maurer (N. Franklin St.)
 - The VB discussed the outdoor burning code. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for December's meeting.

2. Adam Greco – Fire Chief
 - Discussed Swift Water Rescue training and some of the equipment they may need to purchase in the future.
 - Open house at the Firehouse this weekend.

3. Anthony Proper – DPW
 - The stump is gone on S. Franklin St. and the brush pile behind the Firehouse has been mulched.
 - The drying bed at the WFP, with the help of the Town Highway, is complete. The liner installation is scheduled for November. The contractor has delayed it's installation for several weeks. After the liner is installed it will need blacktop. Hopefully, the weather will hold up for blacktopping.

The Mayor discussed the deadline for completion (November 30). Jason Priestly, of Lamont Engineering has been communicating with NYSDEC. He will discuss the weather and contractor delays with him. The Village has been working diligently on this project and hopefully the Black top plant will remain open to finish the project.

- The docks were removed at Riverfront Park. The tree in the park is making it very difficult to remove them. Can something be done?

The VB discussed contacting Story's to see if they can move the tree.

4. Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor Alberti asked the Code Enforcement Officer what the status is on several ongoing issues:

- Dennis Heines garage on Washington Street.

Mr. Ragaini informed the VB that Mr. Heines still has to get some cars out of there and clean it up.

Trustee Lasher asked how long he has to do that?

Mr. Ragaini stated that he was unsure what ACOD told him but the Village Attorney has the information and the case is still open.

- State Telephone building is up. He believes that State Telephone has to return to the Village Planning Board for completing the project.
- House on Marlboro Street. The bank does not want to fix it up – they want it demolished.

The VB agreed that that was a shame since the house can be ‘fixed up’ and there were several people interested in purchasing it from the bank.

- Tim Watkins and Carol May property on N. Franklin St.

Mr. Ragaini told the Mayor that they are pursuing other properties to move their business to. They are still not doing any work there.

The Mayor asked if they were pursuing a Special Use Permit?

Mr. Ragaini stated ‘no’.

- LWRP – Frank Pedatella’s property, located next to the WWTP on Water Street.

Access to the waterfront should not be blocked as per the WAC. That fact, per LWRP, should have been noted on the Building permit.

The Clerk-Treasurer, acting as secretary to the WAC, noted that at the WAC’s last meeting the members were very concerned that landscaping completed on the property has made access by the public to the waterfront impossible and that the ‘no trespassing’ signs from the street were very concerning. The Village Attorney stated at the last meeting that this should be corrected and brought to Mr. Pedatella’s attention, as well as the Planning Board, by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Ragaini stated that the landscaping has not blocked public access it has just changed it. He will also talk to Mr. Pedatella and ask him to remove the signs. He noted that the signs were up to protect the grass seed he had just planted.

Mr. Ragaini also noted that he will meet with the WAC members down at the site and show them if they would like.

The Clerk-Treasurer also made mention of the fact that the building permit should also note this on it.

- Paul Ochs property on Washington Street.

Mr. Ragaini stated that he is still waiting on their completed Special use permit application for an area variance. They have not picked it up yet.

Mayor Alberti told Mr. Ragaini to be sure to follow up with that.

- Pop up store at 19 Second Street.

Mr. Ragaini said that he will give the owner a call and see 'what's going on'. It is zoned commercial. Was it ever a store or just apartments?

Trustee Lasher asked Mr. Ragaini if there were special codes that need to be followed being that it is a store? She noted that she knows people that opened a store at 18 Second Street and they had to have fireproof sheetrock installed.

Mr. Ragaini questioned 'change of use' as well.

She noted that she wants to make sure that 'what we do for one we do for all'.

Mayor Alberti instructed Code Enforcement to 'check the code'.

- Mayor Alberti discussed the fact that residents are planting trees in the village right of ways without permission of the VB. According to village code this activity must be approved by the VB.

Mr. Ragaini apologized that he did not know that.

- Mayor Alberti asked about fire inspections in the village. He instructed Mr. Ragaini to provide him with a list of those buildings that need to be done annually.

5. Roger Masse – Police Chief

- Chief Masse informed the VB that they need to amend the Resolution appointing Steven Place. 'We're square with what needs to happen there?'

The VB agreed.

- The Chief has been in touch with Civil Service to see who else is available on the list.
- The 2005 police car is becoming a problem. We may need to explore getting rid of it.

The Mayor asked if there were any grants available for SUV's?

The Chief will look into it.

- Halloween detail and the pumpkin parade were discussed.
- Trustee Lasher discussed the School detail. Now that we have time sheets that reflect the actual hours for detail at the school can we submit them from the clerk's office to the school once a month?

Clerk-Treasurer and Chief of Police stated 'yes'.

6. Seth Sheridan and Dale Post - VRI

- Repairs to West Clarifier at the WWTP is scheduled for 10/19/17
- Annual inspections were completed for all of the facilities – no issues.
- Woidt Engineering is working on the dam inspection
- Cleaning the Storage tank at the water plant – price from Seaway Divers \$4,000.00 – available in November
- Discussed the drying bed project and the deadline.
- Backup computers for SCADA?

Mayor Alberti stated that we will wait on that.

MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on September 23rd, 2017 be approved:

Offered by:
 Seconded by:
 Record of vote:
 TABLED

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approves payment of the following vouchers as presented:

GENERAL – Abstract #1941, vouchers numbered #9917252 through #9917272 in the amount of \$19,199.95

WATER – Abstract #10405, voucher number #991725 in the amount of \$8739.12

SEWER – Abstract #10390, vouchers numbered #9917273 through #9917274 in the amount of \$11,045.29

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
 Seconded by: Trustee Spinner
 Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving the move of the Village Code Enforcement Officer into the Town Code Enforcement Officer's office

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
 Seconded by: Trustee Scott
 Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution amending former Resolution sponsoring Steven Place to the Police Academy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves hiring Steven Place as a police officer for the Village of Athens

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott
Record of vote: All in favor

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Athens Community Benefits Grant Applications.
2. Intermunicipal Agreement – Providing Cooperative Highway Services.
3. Food Pantry.
4. Brush pile schedule.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Library table.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Whitbeck Benedict & Smith, LLP. Re: Town of Athens Revised Site Plan Law.
2. Hagar's Harbor Bar & Restaurant. Re: Request for placement of sign.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Spinner, all in favor, to grant Hagar's Harbor Bar & Restaurant to place a sign as specified in their request.

3. Greene County Real Property Tax Service. Re: Exemption for 'Cold War' Veterans.
4. Dept. of the Army- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Re: Permit Application Number NAN-2017-00776-UBO John Luvera. 54 Travis Place - SHL

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30PM

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Spinner
Record of vote: All in favor

Mary Jo Wynne
Clerk-Treasurer